

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BRIDGE 01651 121630Z

43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 TRSE-00 COME-00 L-03 INR-07 /028 W

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P 121152Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9573

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 1651

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: BDIS ETRD

SUBJECT: US CUSTOMS SEIZURE OF GOODS

1. MR COLIN WILKIE, OWNER OF WEST INDIES RECORDS COMPANY, BARBADOS HAS REQUESTED EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN CONNECTION WITH A SHIPMENT OF 1361 PHONOGRAPH RECORDS WHICH HE FORWARDED TO PUERTO RICO ON AUGUST 21. SHIPMENT CONTAINED 185 DECCA AND 30 MERCURY RECORDS WHICH ARE PRESUMABLY PROTECTED BY TRADE MARK AND WHICH SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SENT TO PUERTO RICO FOR SALE. THE ENTIRE SHIPMENT HAS BEEN CONFISCATED BY US CUSTOMS IN PUERTO RICO. MR. WILKIE HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER FACT THAT RECORDS WHICH MAY BE ENTERED ARE BEING HELD TOGETHER WITH TRADE MARK ITEMS WHICH ARE PROHIBITED AND THAT HE WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT OF STORAGE CHARGES FOR THE SHIPMENT. WILKIE IS WILLING TO SEND REPRESENTATIVE TO PR TO HAVE PROHIBITED ITEMS RETURNED TO BARBADOS IF THIS WILL HELP.

2. WILKIE STATES HE IS EXCLUSIVE REPRESENTATIVE IN EASTERN CARIBBEAN FOR SEVERAL AMERICAN RECORDING COMPANIES. HE POINTS OUT THAT AGENTS IN US HAVE ON MANY OCCASIONS IN PAST SHIPPED RECORDS FROM US DIRECTLY INTO HIS TERRITORY WITHOUT HIS HAVING RAISED ANY OBJECTIONS. HE, HOWEVER, IN RETALIATION, AND UNLESS GIVEN RELIEF ON PRESENT SHIPMENT WILL REQUEST BARBADOS' CUSTOMS TO STOP FURTHER US SHIPMENTS WHICH ARE NOT IMPORTED BY HIS COMPANY. HE HAS ALREADY CONTACTED BARBADOS MINISTRY OF TRADE AND COMMERCE AND THE CUSTOMS SERVICE AND HAS INITIATED SUCH ACTION.

3. TO PREVENT THIS SMALL ISSUE DEVELOPING INTO A "TRADE BATTLE", DEPT. IS REQUESTED TO CONTACT CUSTOMS AND SUGGEST UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 BRIDGE 01651 121630Z

THAT WILKIE'S REPRESENTATIVE BE PERMITTED TO REMOVE DECCA AND

MERCURY RECORDS AND THAT BALANCE OF SHIPMENT BE RELEASED
IMMEDIATELY. WILKIE HAS ALSO MENTIONED HIS CONCERN THAT SHIPMENT
MAY BE SUBJECT TO PILFERAGE AND THAT HE COULD LOSE CONSIDERABLE
AMOUNT OF MONEY AS RESULT.
BRITTON

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